

Rough Draft to Dave

- can't find any record

May 17 1974

Dear Dave,

700424

OD 40 (90)

I would like to add some information to your collection of human material bearing plutonium (or other transuranics). As you may know Dr. Hamilton ~~was involved in the~~ ^{two persons with one each with} injected of ²³⁸Pu, 239-Pu and Am-241. We have unearthed all of the ^{Crocker Lab.} original records of radioassay and so on. In addition we have located the pathological specimens, ^{hospital records,} names and present status of all four persons. We are arranging to have sections cut for counting, and ^{preparation} of autoradiographs. All four persons had some bony lesion (except who was misdiagnosed) and unfortunately the tissue specimens were decalcified. But hopefully, the 5% HNO₃ in alcohol treatment still left some isotope behind. The dose was well known for all four, absorption data seem good on the two injected ²³⁸Pu, but except for the assay of tissues was badly done, and the data are not worth too much. I enclose a brief summary of the cases.

It seems to me to be time, inasmuch as ^{W S} ^{238-Pu} is still alive and well as of July 1968, to re-assess the ^{AEC} policy with respect to this old human material. I know there are qualms about suits, but couldn't the Commission's attorneys work out some form of payment, for waiver of suit rights, and let us ^{open up} have access to the Rochester and Chicago files, so that the hospital records, and whereabouts, ^{of} ^{can be learned} tissue specimens at Strongsville and place of residence of the survivors and place of burial of those who have died. It seems to me that whatever would have to be paid, the amount of information that could be gained would be far more valuable. It also seems to me that it might be better to own up to one's embarrassment and bring it out into the open, than ^{to} keep trying to "keep things quiet".

If we get anything from the material we have here, we would very much like to publish it. While I am concerned that the status of this material will remain in limbo forever -- but it can't really-- and someday someone will have to make a public statement, wouldn't it be better, if that statement were volunteered rather than dragged out.

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